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ABSTRACT

Designed to stimulate student motivation, this handbook contains a wide variety of activities and strategies for use at the elementary and secondary school levels. Nine sections contain incentive ideas which can be applied to student achievement, teaching techniques, subject areas, community resources, public relations, special programs, vocational or career projects, and fundraising. Examples are "here on time" coupons, encouragement posters, certificates of achievement, review games, nontraditional tests, field trips, student evaluation questionnaires, and holiday treats. (LP)

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LEARNING FOR THE FUN OF IT

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Learning for the Fun of It was created with motivation in mind. Since motivation is something all teachers struggle with in their classrooms, this potpourri of stimulating ideas was meant to be a coming together of minds to help each other.

We hope that, because of it, you will all have more "learning for the fun of it" experiences in your classroom.

Thanks to creative staff members from the following schools for their contributions:

Alternative Learning Center
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Bryan Extension Center
Lincoln, Nebraska

Fremont Junior and Senior High Schools
Fremont, Nebraska

Fremont Learning Center
Fremont, Nebraska

Millard North High School
Omaha, Nebraska

North Platte Public Schools
North Platte, Nebraska

Progress School
Grand Island, Nebraska

Whitehall School
Nebraska Center for Children and Youth
Lincoln, Nebraska

Winnebago Public Schools
Winnebago, Nebraska

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PROGRESS INCENTIVES

"Here on Time" Coupons Many of our students do not see the importance of coming to school on time every day. To encourage them in a positive way, we give out "HERE ON TIME" coupons. Five in a row earn one period off school; any twenty can also do the same.

****

Perfect Pass Roll To encourage students to do good quality work and complete it on time, we have a "Perfect Pass Roll". We do not give letter grades. Students who pass all their classes on time during a given 4½ week session get to leave school early one period on Fridays during the next 4½ week session.

****

Session Stars We recognize "Session Stars" each 4½ weeks:

Super Star - Top all around student
Rising Star - Most growth and improvement
New Star - Top new student

****

Alternative Learning Center
815 North 18
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

****

Club 60 The Junior High reading class is set up on a point system with 90 points as the total required for a course completion. Each assignment that is successfully finished is worth a certain number of points. When a student has earned 60 points, her/his picture is taken with an instant camera and displayed on the Club 60 chart.

Being photographed has been a positive motivator for many students. Some students will tell their teacher to get the camera ready soon.

"When will you take my picture?" The teacher then explains to them that they need to earn 60 points and they often reply, "I'll do that by next....." or "I need only 10 more points."

****

Book Awards Students are recognized for the number of books they read. One wall chart has the name of each student who read two books. When a student has read five books, his/her name is added to the "Five Book" chart. Almost every reading student earns the "Two Book" award and about one-third earn the "Five Book" award.

****

Display Board Throughout the year we take pictures of students working in Home Ec. class. The pictures are displayed on a board for all to see.

****

Progress Board The students must complete six units for each semester of 7th and 8th grade math. There is a progress board on the wall where each student's name is placed. When a student completes a unit, they move their names along the board until they reach the "completed" section.

****

Fun Day On Fridays, if the students have worked well in math, they may work on the computer. They may play games that strengthen their math skills or they may program in "turtle graphics". In some cases, this has caused students to not be absent on Fridays.

****

Cheer Notes Whenever a student finishes a test, she/he is given a "Three Cheers" note to take home and share with their family if they desire. "Happy Grams" were also given occasionally, informing the student of his/her progress. Students sometimes even waited after class to make sure they had a note to take home.

****

Encouragement A "100 Hours" poster is a good motivator for students to complete classes and gain more hours toward graduation. When any student has completed 100 or more credit hours, his/her name goes on a large, colorful poster displayed on a large wall with the hours they have completed. Then when 150 hours are completed and the student graduates, a diploma is tacked onto the poster beside their name. This seems to be a good method of motivation without causing harmful competition among students.

****

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1801 South 40 Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

****

Progress Management System During each progress reporting period, the instructors will assign points to the work that the student completes during that period of time. There are four reporting periods per semester; if a student completes one-fourth of a semester's work during a reporting period, the instructor of the class will give one point for that progress.

We ask that in each of the reporting periods a student earn a minimum of four points. If the student does not earn four points in a period, he will be placed on probationary

status the next period. He will be closely monitored and receive more individual help. If this results in satisfactory progress, he/she will be allowed to remain in school. If the progress does not improve, the value of his placement at the Learning Center is assessed and a parent-teacher consultation is held to discuss the student remaining at the Center.

Further incentives can be built into the system by rewarding those students who improve their progress by increasing points each quarter, or those who earn a certain number of points each quarter. Coupons from fast-food restaurants were much sought after rewards.

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957 North Pierce
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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Student of the Week To be eligible for this honor, the student has to have had perfect attendance, have completed a sufficient amount of work, and have been a cooperative person. The reward might be free computer time, a "food" reward or a small gift. A picture of him/her may be posted.

****

Computer Our computer is a technique we use with which we have had a good rate of success. Those students who have worked well during the day, can finish the last fifteen or twenty minutes on an educational game. They all really enjoy this and, for the most part, the day ends well for everyone.

****

Progress School
1912 No. Lafayette
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

Pluses Each day when the bell rings and I take class attendance, those students who are in their seats and working are given a plus. I use pencil and if behavior becomes undesirable, I can easily erase it. This gives the students a record of their daily attitude and output, which is more important to me than their academic grades.

****

Winnebago Public Schools
P.O. Box KK
Winnebago, Nebraska 68071

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Certificate of Achievement This can be used for a myriad of reasons. Among the accomplishments we have recognized are:

Most improved in behavior
Most improved in performance
Most prompt
Best groomed
Most improved in social behavior
Most willing to request help when needed

Use your own creativness to create a reason for a child to receive a certificate...they consider it a great honor and it is a good method of building self-esteem and pride in a child. (see certificate next page)

****

Certificate of Achievement

This award of distinction is presented

To _____

For Superior Achievement & Excellence of

Performance in _____

This ___ *day of* _____, *19*___

Signed _____

10

Motivators Many things work as motivators for different reasons. Youth are selected as tour guides when visitors come to the NCCY campus. Students are selected on behavior at the time. What this means is that if it is o.k. with the teacher because academic tasks have been completed or if a youth is having a good day, he may be selected as a guide.

Also, youth are selected to participate in various activities such as cooking for a sixty member conference, serving coffee, tea and cookies for open house. These events are usually photographed which helps students to look and do their best.

****

A Point System Earning Schedule: Points

Coming to class on time, staying in class, leaving only with permission	5
Completing assignments without coaxing	5
Quality of completed work satisfactory	5
Appropriate behavior, sitting in seat, limited swearing	5
Spending Schedule	
Punch or Iced Tea	10
Buy out of an assignment	50
Free period	50
Small treat (candy, stick of gum)	10
Pop after school	100
One free canteen treat	100
Restroom or drink (leave room with permission)	10
Be taken out for lunch	200
Matinee Movie	200

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Whitehall School
Nebraska Center for Children and Youth
P.O. Box 4585
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

12

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Competition I use competition between classes to enhance learning. Whether it is a class project or a test we're studying for, the idea of "Let's beat 2nd period this time" usually works.

I usually make up this incredible list of prizes (Disneyland, Maytag washer-dryer) that somehow always get lost. Kids in the winning class get doughnuts or cookies.

****

Fremont Senior High
16 and Lincoln St.
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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M O R E I D E A S

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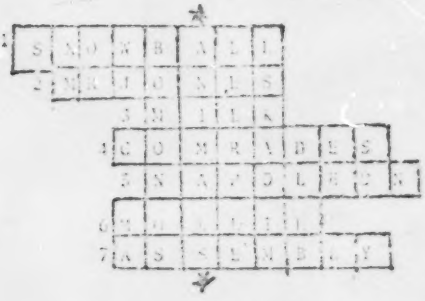
TEACHING TECHNIQUES

Puzzle Quizzes By giving students a puzzle for a study guide or quiz, they are, in a way, able to self-correct them because they know there is a hidden word, key words or other clue that must show up correctly spelled.

Study Guide Puzzle: Chap. 3



ANSWERS (NAN

1. Who reduced the Commandments?
2. At a person dies they are on the floor?
3. What did the pigs get to drink?
4. What did they call each other?
5. Who didn't get along with Snowball?
6. Who was one of the leaders?
7. One thing they had only on Sunday?

****

Review Game This is based on TV's Jeopardy Game, using a board with review questions on 3x5 cards. The class is divided into two teams. They win points for correct answers. Other TV game shows could be adapted for the same purpose.

****

Heroes and Heroines Students research qualities essential for any person to be classified as a hero or heroine. They may brainstorm real or imaginary heroes and heroines. Each class voted for the top ten and researched specific heroes or heroines. This can be an individual or group assignment.

****

Rewards Small prizes are given to the students

achieving highest scores, completing assignments successfully in the least amount of time, etc. These prizes might be a candy bar, pack of gum, a soft drink coupon, a pencil, etc.

****

Teacher for a Day Students make up work sheets, crossword puzzles, word finds, art projects, etc. Students really seem to enjoy this.....and many even do well!!

****

Vocabulary Review I use colorful magazine pictures for vocabulary review. Place pictures on the board. I give each student all the words, but each copy is in a different order. They have a good time coming up with interesting sentences using the prescribed word and picture. Sometimes the word and picture don't really match (such as "spaghetti" and "bigot"). Kids can't cheat easily as all have different word order. Interesting pictures get me through a lot. It's worth the time to laminate good colorful ones.

****

Fremont Public Schools
Junior and Senior High
16 and Lincoln Street
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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MORE IDEAS

SUBJECT AREA METHODS

Luncheon Junior High students in the foods area are given the option of hosting a luncheon. If they choose to do this, their last few study packets include meal planning, table setting and manners. They are allowed to invite four guests. Invitations are made and their meal preparation and dining are put on a time management chart. Costs and nutrition are also figured up.

****

Home Ec Goodies Due to the rising cost of food, the Junior High classes at Bryan are selling food items. A student is allowed $10 to work with in the Home Ec. course. When students sell their products, that money will be credited to their $10, enabling them to do more cooking. The money will be turned into the teacher to purchase food, craft and sewing supplies. Selling their food items will be optional for each student. This should help them understand the cost of food and to know that products must be appealing if they are to be purchased. The students are usually very proud of their endeavors.

*****

Bryan Extension Center
1801 So. 40 Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

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Hands-On Experience In my "Married Life" unit, I require each student to find a home floor plan and transfer this to a large poster. Pictures of furniture should be found and attached to the poster. The student then is required to price similar pieces of furniture at local stores. Most students are, indeed,

surprised to find just how expensive furnishing a home or apartment really can be.

****

Grammar Fun Use of articles from periodicals, newspapers and magazines provide lots of fun and interesting material for grammar study. Any element of grammar can be taught through this method....and Hot Rod, or Teen or Rolling Stone magazines are certainly more fun to work from than a textbook, which only serve to turn my students off.

They can find parts of speech; rewrite paragraphs; use synonyms or antonyms for various parts of speech (antonyms create some pretty funny articles).

Types of sentences can be identified, outlines can be written....the list of possibilities goes on and on.

Occasionally, students find grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors in articles. When this happens, I feel it is a real accomplishment for the student, because he/she is aware of the error.

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Fremont Learning Center
957 North Pierce
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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Fractional Parts Students bring candy bars to divide into fractional parts. Success means a sweet treat.

****

Art Project Take large pictures of food from magazines and cut up into four sections. Give these four sections to four different students to paint. At the end of the project, put the

pictures back together to display. It is interesting to see how different, yet how alike, they turn out.

****

Health In the 7th grade health class, the subject of "Death" was added to the chapter dealing with disease. Students drew pictures of what they thought Death would look like.

****

Fremont Public Schools
Junior and Senior High
16 and Lincoln Streets
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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General Office Practice Those students who work bring their W-2 forms to class and we fill out their income tax forms.

Extra credit is allowed for the challenge problem in accounting.

Office practice girls answer the school phone for ½hour before school during the unit on communication.

At the end of the year, the office practice class visits the offices each girl works in and she has to explain and give us a tour of her job.

****

North Platte Public School
913 West Philip
North Platte, Nebraska 69101

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Map Skills Use of map skills training in delivering a newsletter published semi-annually to a specific area is the object of this activity. Students contract to deliver the newsletter. Areas are mapped out and blocked off daily on a map until the objective is attained.

****

Grammar Exercise The instructor or a student calls for parts of speech to write into a prewritten story. As students call out the part of speech requested, it is written into the story. Then the story is read aloud... usually creating a very humorous short story.

****

Six o'Clock Math When student behavior and math skills are inappropriate or poor, sometimes a drastic measure is needed. 6:00 A.M. is a great time for doing math assignments for whatever reason. Six o'clock math insures credit and changes the attitude of the child to wanting to succeed during regularly scheduled class time.

****

Religion - Clowns for Christ Many youth at NCCY have limited views of Christianity. Clowns for Christ is a puppet show designed with a message. It is used as one approach to familiarize youth with the Christian concept. The program is presented by ex-convicts.

****

Spelling To reinforce correct spelling and motivate students to practice spelling, balloons are stuffed with messages, blown up and taped on the ceiling every Monday morning. The messages are things the students enjoy doing (free time, lunch with the teacher).

If a student receives 100% on the test on Friday, he/she gets to pop a balloon and do what the message says. If all students receive 100% on the test, the class will be treated to a movie and popcorn on Tuesday. This helps students to motivate each other.

****

Rock Poster System When I finally had a chance to decorate my own classroom, I thought long and hard about what I didn't want. As a student, I never paid any attention to the posters or sayings that were on the walls....they didn't interest me. I wondered what might interest the students at Whitehall.

So I thought I'd try promotional posters of rock music albums. Since I personally know the owners of the two largest record stores in Lincoln, it was easy for me to get these posters for little or no cost. And the students love them!!!

Each semester I get 20-25 posters that I give away on a "points earned" system. The student with the highest number of points gets first choice and so on. A student must have 200 points to be in the running for a poster (points can be traded in for other things). A student can earn 20 points a day. There are four categories worth five points each: being in the room on time, doing assigned work, behavior in class (very subjective), and use of appropriate language.

I was skeptical of how it would work, at first, but I have found it to be very successful. Not only is it a little reminder of what the students need to do to earn the poster, keeping them on task; but they also listen to the lyrics and read what's on the posters. Listening and reading are important in my classes since I teach Reading and English.

****

Journalism Once each month the Journalism class puts out a campus newspaper. Some of the regular features include cottage news, an advice column, album reviews, song dedications, staff and student interviews, campus events, field trips and a puzzle page.

At the beginning of each month, the class plays Trivial Pursuit, a purchased game, to decide what new topics we will cover for the next newspaper. Then the students, with prepared questionnaires or objectives, set up interviews, conduct the interviews and then write the articles. Those students who write poorly may dictate to those who spell and have better writing skills.

Through this class, the students enhance their writing and spelling skills, as well as interviewing and listening skills. We occasionally have some typists in the class which saves "wear and tear" on our secretary.

At the end of each month, the students assemble and deliver the paper around campus. We then have a class party to celebrate their hard work and another successful publication.

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Whitehall School
Nebraka Center for Children
and Youth
P.O. Box 4585
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

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Predicate Nouns and Adjectives and Direct Objects
Students always have a hard time with these three. I use pictures from magazines. Find interesting pictures of famous characters, for example, John Travolta. Flash the pictures and make them come up with a predicate noun or adjective or a direct object using John for the subject.

Pred. Noun - John is the star of the movie.
Pred. Adjective - John is macho.
Direct Object - John takes vitamins.

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Fremont Senior High
16 and Lincoln Street
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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MORE IDEAS

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Lincoln Correctional Center Visits Many Bryan students participated in a series of four field trips to the Lincoln Correctional Center. Students toured the facility and were involved in a series of discussions centered around "Peer Pressure" and how it affects our daily decision making. Both Junior and Senior High students participated. Student response to the experience was very positive. Students can receive one hour of credit for participation in the field trips after they have written a paper based on their experiences at the Lincoln Correctional Center.

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Bryan Extension Center
1801 South 40 Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

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Extra! Extra! Read All About It Students listen and read about major items in the news. The class studies controversial topics such as nuclear energy, environment, and abortion.

Speakers visit the class weekly to present their views on a current topic.

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Alternative Learning Center
815 No. 18 Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

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Foreign Country Day Each year one full day is spent extensively exploring a foreign country. Utilizing people who have made these trips or are natives of the country, the day is spent viewing slide presentations and native artifacts, listening to native music, tasting a native food dish (a real experience for students and teacher, alike), and discussing the life and society of the land.

Countries we have covered are: The Soviet Union, Pakistan, Micronesia, France and Alaska (which is still foreign to many of our students).

****

Community Involvement in the Classroom We have taken career field trips to the Fremont Airport, Bahner Beauty College, and Dodge County Memorial Hospital to explore careers in aerospace, hair styling and cosmotology, and health careers.

We also had community speakers and teachers. An Air Force sergeant led a discussion on careers in aerospace. A nationally known artist and her associate taught all of us that we, too, can be artists. Local ceramic shop owners came to help the students in the art of ceramics. Each participating student completed a ceramics project.

****

YMCA Arrangements were made with the YMCA to use their facilities once a week at a minimum cost to our students. Students usually opted to play volley ball, however, they played an occasional game of basket ball or war ball.

****

Fremont Learning Center
957 North Pierce
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

Speakers I call on community business people as speakers for certain topics in accounting and office practice:

Banking - bank president or loan officer
Taxes - Internal Revenue representative
Careers - an area C.P.A.
Appearance - an area hairdresser

****

Tours I feel the students learn more seeing it first hand. Tours have been:

Computer - accounting firm
Word Processing - businesses that have systems (Post office, Business supply store)

****

Interviews When talking about careers in office practice, I have my students visit with someone from that career area. Students have to report back to the class on the interview.

****

North Platte Public Schools
913 West Philip
North Platte, Nebraska 69109

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P O P - The Personal Opportunity Period The "Personal Opportunity Period" at Millard North High offers students additional opportunities to explore various careers, hobbies and leisure time activities within a regular school day. It also provides opportunity for parents/guest speakers/staff members to share their interests and abilities in a particular career, hobby or leisure time activity with a small group of interested students.

Speakers and films for POP are scheduled through the Career Center and are offered various periods one day a week. Presentations are made in the Lecture Hall of the

Auditorium. A monthly schedule of speakers, films, topics, dates and periods of presentation is posted in the hallways, announced in the morning bulletin, printed in the monthly Parent Newsletter and distributed to teachers at least two weeks in advance.

Students must sign up in advance in the Career Center for presentations they wish to attend. Attendance at most presentations is limited to thirty; if more than thirty students sign up, the speaker/film is scheduled for another presentation. Students are asked to complete an evaluation of each presentation. Roll is taken from these evaluation sheets. The list of students who actually attend is placed in teachers' mailboxes by the next morning. Regular attendance procedures are followed regarding appropriate or inappropriate absences.

Students are encouraged to attend a POP presentation during their study hall time, released time for Teacher Advisement, or during free time at lunch. However, if they have no study hall or have a particular interest in a topic presented only during their class time, they may secure a POP Pass from the teacher indicating the student's wish to attend the POP presentation and intention to make up any work missed during that period. The signed POP Pass is collected at the program before the scheduled event. There are instances in which a teacher does not grant permission for a student to miss a particular class period.

Parents and staff members are invited to attend any POP presentation. Questions and suggestions for suitable topics, speakers and films are welcomed and encouraged from students, staff and parents. A "Community Resource Survey" and also a "Hobbies and Leisure Time Activities Survey" were included in the

Parent Newsletter and also distributed to staff members in an initial effort to locate speakers, but response was very limited.

POP PASS and Evaluation follow.

****

Millard North High School
1010 South 144 Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68514

****

POP PASSES

DATE: _____

TO: _____

CLASS: _____

_____ would like to attend the POP
Student's name

presentation _____
Topic/Title/Speaker

scheduled for _____ period on _____ / _____
day date

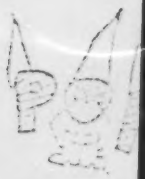
He/She is responsible for making up any work missed.

_____
Teacher's Signature

**Return to Guidance Center at least three days before the class to be missed.

Name _____

Student Evaluation of POP Program



POP Program Topic _____

Date _____ Period _____

1. WHY did you choose to attend this program?
   - ___ a. I am very interested in this topic.
   - ___ b. I thought I might be interested in this topic
   - ___ c. My friends wanted me to come with them.
   - ___ d. I wanted to get out of study hall/class.
   - ___ e. I don't know.
2. What did you LIKE about this program?
   - ___ a. The topic
   - ___ b. The speaker
   - ___ c. The film/demonstration/slides
   - ___ d. The period of the day
   - ___ e. Everything
3. What would you like to see CHANGED?
   - ___ a. Nothing
   - ___ b. The speaker
   - ___ c. The film/demonstration/slides
   - ___ d. The period of the day
   - ___ e. _____
4. What other topics would you suggest for POP programs (career interes hobbies, special interests)?

SUGGESTION BOX

MORE IDEAS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Mural A mural was composed by the artist from information gathered through 2 months of meetings with students and staff at NCCY. Images on the mural depict the verbal dialogue during these discussions.

The images are composed in a computer image because the computer represents the electric game atmosphere that attracts today's youth and also represents the new technology and media exploration of today's education.

The Nebraska Center for Children and Youth offers new hope and alternatives to the youth and so the visual images of the mural suggest the alternatives and options available to these young adults.

The game currently being played is one of retreat, retreating behind a mask, not letting one's feelings show. The computer states "May I Help You?" ...one of the first messages received from a caring staff as the student first arrives in this new setting. The day board provides the student with his alternatives in playing the game. The cassette offers various directions he may take at NCCY. The flowing lines represent the red tape that exists in any institution, especially one supported by the state and mandated through the courts.

The students and staff laid out the mural on the wall and have done the painting. Over 70 students participated in the painting of the mural. Very little of the mural was painted by the artist. The more complicated parts of the mural were either painted by students or by a volunteer artist, Chrys Moore.

Artistically speaking, the yellow grid on a blue background should set up a vibration, the colors being one another's complements. They also intensify each other for this reason. Warm colors advance and cool colors recede. Hopefully, the computer image will be coming forward and the background grid receding. The grids diminish towards the middle of the mural, adding to its receding effect. The computer itself is in "one point perspective", with its vanishing point somewhere in the ceiling. The cassettes are in "two point perspective". The red tape is floating above the grid. All colors were keyed in intensity except the dark blue and yellow which have a higher intensity.

****

Project Adventure An area at Schramm Park set up to encourage trust activities. Through group activities where a person must trust others, a feeling of self-esteem, self-worth and team work are united.

****

Backward Approach With the supervision of the metal and wood shop teachers, the Exercise Area project was completed. To complete it, youth had to cut railroad ties, weld and cut pipe, dig holes, plumb poles, shovel sand and drive nails, etc. After the building was completed, then youth had to figure out the cost of materials used for one station and the cost of the total exercise area. Then a working drawing could be made. (see photo, next page).

****

Whitehall School
Nebraska Center for Children
and Youth
P.O. Box 4585
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

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STAFF PHOTO BY HANK DUKE MAU

After School Activities Overnight campouts, bowling, picnics, canoe trips, soft ball games and chili feeds, volley ball games, hikes and other such activities seemed to introduce some good, wholesome entertainment into the students' lives. We try to plan one such activity each month.

****

Awareness Group Weekly sessions are held which cover topics relevant to youth today. Topic examples are: Death and Dying, History of Rock and Roll, Domestic Abuse, Single Family Parenting, Family Planning, Communicable Diseases, Sex Roles.

Many community speakers were willing to share their expertise in these areas. Contact other schools for resources (books, worksheets, etc.). We found there were lots of creative people out there willing to share their neat ideas.

****

Student Reunion The school had a favorable response to a reunion held during the summer for former Learning Center students and their families.

****

Decoupage A hands-on experience was the designing and making of decoupage plaques for Christmas gifts. Not only did the students have nice presents for someone, but they also had experience using power saws, a router and other carpenter tools to complete their plaques.

****

Fremont Learning Center
957 North Pierce
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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Peer Tutoring Students can receive course credit for tutoring another student. Tutoring is an opportunity for students to demonstrate skills in a specific subject area through helping another student in that area. It is an opportunity for knowledgeable students to work on a one-to-one basis with other students who are having difficulty in a specific area. This could involve assisting others on a regular basis in a scheduled classroom.

****

Survival Skills. This is a program sponsored by the YWCA. The program is for girls, ages 12 to 18 and is held for eight-weekly sessions intervals during the year. The girls register for classes which meet for an hour each of the eight sessions. Classes are in physical activity (swimming, aerobic dance, weight training), apartment and job seeking skills, parenting activities, alcohol and drug information and educational development.

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Monthly Special Every month the junior high Home Economics students have the option of participating in a monthly special. The special is a treat for the students, giving them more points that the usual amount or giving it to them at a lower cost. It focuses on an area that usually is not something the students work on and is done in a group instead of individually or is a way of instructing a new packet of information. Some examples are: Communication, Venereal Disease, Teenage Sexuality, Breakfast on the Run, Making Christmas Wreaths. This has proved to be a successful motivational tool for the students and something they look forward to.

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Course Day Students may not be aware of many of the course offerings, their content or the sequence and timing necessary for certain areas. Therefore, Bryan held a "Course Day" early in the fall. Students had an opportunity to visit all nine course areas. Instructors presented what they felt were the most important points about their particular area. Students are encouraged to ask questions or come back at a later time to get specific questions answered. The entire staff also benefited from the experience.

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Teenage Pregnancy A specific course entitled "Teenage Pregnancy" is included in the Bryan Center curriculum. This particular course is offered along with the seven other Home Economics courses and is available for five credit hours for any student, male or female, who is interested.

Through filmstrips, pamphlets, textbooks and speakers and life form replicas, the course covers such topics as decision-making and family planning up through post-partum care.

In this course, the teenager is always kept in mind, especially concentrating on the decisions and concerns they will have to face if becoming pregnant or being held responsible for someone's pregnancy.

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Bryan Extension Center
1801 South 40 Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

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SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Birthdays In Home Ec there is a "Happy Birthday" poster up and each month the students' names and birthdates are listed.

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Holiday Treats Two days before the winter break, our students are given a real treat at break time. A table in the lounge area is filled with baskets of fruit, boxes of candy and cookies. These are gifts from the staff to the students provided through donations of either cash or goodies. The students really do appreciate it. For some, it will be the only tangible gift they receive.

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Honoring Graduates When students have earned their credit hours to graduate at Bryan Center, whether it be only one hour or a hundred and fifty hours, they are escorted to each teaching area by the counselor and "presented" to the teachers and students. Their picture is taken (or they provide one) and placed in a "Frame of Honor" in the main hall. Each student receives a graduation card (designed and printed by the Art Dept.) signed by all staff members. The card also includes a picture of the staff.

****

Pilgrim Day This was a mostly student-organized activity to celebrate our heritage. A donation was collected from students and staff to purchase ham and turkey. Staff and students supplied the additional dishes for a delicious noon meal. Parents and guardians were invited.

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1801 South 40 Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

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Pride Means Sharing The theme for ALC Pride Week activities seemed to be working and playing together...sharing fun and completing projects.

First, ALC joined the Career Center in presenting a municipal sculpture dedicated to former superintendent, Raj Chopra.

ALC staff and students "cleared the way" by cleaning up the west end site before the landmark, built and designed by Career Center students, was installed. The huge metal sculpture that spells out 'Council Bluffs' greets visitors as they enter the city from Interstate 480.

Next, ALC teachers and students played softball and volleyball on Tuesday, last hour. The following day, teams participated in "Family Feud", ALC style. Teams were quizzed on the usual Family Feud type questions that are presented on the television show. But the organizers of this activity added questions about Council Bluffs, the ALC program and school subjects.

On Thursday, the "Feud" became a share-in, as students and teachers participated in a potluck lunch and a dress up day.

The finale on Friday was a Parent Swap Day. Parents accompanied their son or daughter to school and took the student's place in class.

"After this interesting week, parents will probably want to enroll permanently in the program", commented one PRIDE Week participant.

****

Salute to Students and Graduates This is a major event of the school year....Recognition Night....Awards are presented to students for excellence in academic subjects, perfect attendance, and perfect pass. Parents of honored students receive letters of invitation. A special ceremony for graduates is held. After the program, refreshments are served.

Since the program is lengthy, it is sometimes difficult for small children to sit through it. These youngsters might be more comfortable if parents could arrange for child care.

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Alternative Learning Center
815 No. 18 Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

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The Magic of Camp Kitaki The Nebraska Center for Children and Youth (NCCY) and the Lincoln YMCA Camp Kitaki take a selected group of NCCY residents to Camp Kitaki, located near Louisville, 30 miles from Lincoln, to participate in a unique program designed especially for them. The goals of the program are to integrate NCCY and Camp Kitaki staff and the NCCY youth in an outdoor living experience, to use the educational and ecological aspects of the camp setting to increase the youths' self-awareness, to combine the adventure and freedom of camp with a program of therapy, to improve the relationships between NCCY staff and residents and improve their morale, and, of course, to have fun. (See photos and comments - following page).

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Whitehall School
Nebraska Center for Children
and Youth
P.O. Box 4585
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Exercise I:
"Go hug a tree."

"Can't tell the campers from the staff?"

That's part of the point!

Camp Kitaki Staff Reflections

It's a very rewarding experience. It brings staff and youth to better understand one another. It is hot and tiring. Lots of hills to climb and beautiful scenery. Very nice people. I feel like a much better person because of Camp Kitaki. I've learned to tell someone how much I really care about them. I think everyone should go through a similar type of experience. Camp Kitaki puts a person "Up Where They Belong"!! I was happy to be home, but wanted the Camp Kitaki feeling to stay with me.

****

It is a highlight of the year for youth who get chosen to go. Good things happen to kids at Camp Kitaki that you don't see happen on campus. One of the best things that could happen to a kid coming away from a week at Kitaki is the closing camp fire. You get very close to everyone and it was a very sad feeling because the experience is ending. Now that I'm back, it is hard to get back into the routine. I'm very tired and drained, but still feeling o.k.

****

As I reflect back on the Camp Kitaki experience, I am still amazed. During the camp, the activities were fun when everyone joined in; the speakers were interesting and gave valuable information; the canoe trip was exciting in a lot of ways and scary in others; the morning exercise workouts were rewarding; cabin life was challenging....but living with eleven individuals for six days and nights, one learns to get along. The weather was hot (Awful!), and closing camp fire.....Oh, Yes!!

Closing camp fire, with all the youth and staff standing in a circle, arms interlaced, speaking

words from the heart, foreign to most of their natural and learned behavior, was an unforgettable experience. A time when six days of sweat, hard work, and fun was worth every moment of those sixteen to twenty hour days. The magic, as it is called at camp, is an unexplainable inner feeling. The closeness of staff to youth, youth to staff, staff to staff and youth to youth, was felt and expressed verbally and with hugs of friendship. A moment of unbelievable memory and awe.

Camp Kitaki was fantastic and I <u>am</u> going again!!

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Whitehall School
Nebraska Center for Children
and Youth
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Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

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<u>Thoreau Unit - "Do Your Own Thing"</u> As a conclusion to this unit, I give each student a 1 or 2 inch square of potter's clay. They are to fashion their own piece of clay into something that represents their own life --- different and unique from all others. Then after a 15 minute period of "playing", I gather each "unique" form; take it to the art department and have it fired in the kiln. I then return it and tell the kids to think of Thoreau and his "listen to your own drummer" philosophy every time their little clay object appears in their life.

****

Prejudice Teach students the unfairness of prejudice by making all the blue-eyed kids the preferred race for a week. Special privileges, easy assignments, seats in the back, etc. are alloted only to those with blue eyes. CAUTION: "Brown-eyed kids can get hostile!"

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Fremont Senior High
16 and Lincoln Street
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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MORE IDEAS

MONEY RAISERS

Valentine Dance The most successful money-raising project this year was a Valentine Dance allowing students to vote (10¢ a vote) for King and Queen. For three days preceding the dance, ballots were sold and charted so the progress could be noted. About twice daily, the ballots were counted. Voting continued for two hours at the dance. Refreshments were served and admission to the dance gave some free ballots for voting. The students made about $130 profit in this three day project.

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Winnebago Public School
P.O. Box KK
Winnebago, Nebraska 68071

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Campbell Soup Labels The Fremont Learning Center participated in the Campbell Labels for Education program during the school year. The program was entered with two goals in mind. The first, to enable our students to work together for the benefit of all. This was accomplished as students became competitive and proud of the collection.

The second goal was getting needed school equipment. We were able to get volleyballs, soccer balls, hand magnifiers and other things.

****

Chili Feed The students organized and planned this activity. And it was very successful...with more than $100 profit.

Posters were made and displayed around town,

tickets were sold (adult and child), the groceries were purchased, chili cooked and cakes donated by the students.

The profits were used for a canoe trip. The chili feed gave us a chance to meet the public and have them see our school.

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Fremont Learning Center
957 North Pierce
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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Bake Sale The Home Economics department holds bake sales occasionally throughout the year. It is a good way to raise money for the department, an excellent practice for the students to improve their baking skills and also a good experience in learning to manage such an event.

It always proves to be a successful money making project, a fun learning experience for the students, and provides nutritious snacks for all.

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Bryan Extension Center
1801 South 40 Street
Lincoln, Nebrask 68506

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MORE IDEAS

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Community Awareness A slide and tape presentation of the Fremont Learning Center has proved to be an excellent source of communication between the community and the Center. This has been presented to area service clubs and student organiztions.

A brochure was prepared and has been used to inform the community of our program.

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Presentations to College Classes Our slide presentation of the Learning Center was presented to education classes at Midland College. Several of the classes also visited the Learning Center. We also have had classes from other colleges visit our facility. They did not come during school hours, but on a Saturday or in the evening.

Learning Center students were most willing to come and participate as a panel outside of school hours. We were pleased and proud of their participation.

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Beautification Project/Arbor Day Students participated in National Beautification Week by cleaning the roadsides around the school as well as the school yard. A cottonwood tree was planted and students also planted flowers around the building.

****

Heart Association The American Heart Association sponsors a "Jump Rope for Heart" project each year. In conjunction with health and physical education classes, we participated. The students were proud to have a part in doing a community

service. A total of $160 was collected for the Heart Association through pledges. The public was informed of this event through the local radio station.

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Fremont Learning Center
957 North Pierce
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

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Serteen Group Bryan Center has the first Serteen group in Lincoln, an off-shoot of Sertoma. The financial support for the club has come from the Sertoma Club organized at the Lincoln Correctional Center. The Correctional Center Sertoma members earned enough money to pay the Serteens charter/membership dues. The Serteens are a service organization and have raised money for the Youth Service System and clothing for people in need.

****

National Education for Business Week As a special project during this week, the business students at Bryan Center took time to write letters to teachers, counselors, and/or employers. The purpose of the letter was two-fold:

1. To inform the reader about National Education for Business Week.
2. To thank the reader for some help or support they had given the student.

Some students wrote to Bryan Center teachers. Others wrote to teachers they'd had in the past. Some chose to write to a group counselor, a drug treatment counselor, or a foster parent. Several wrote to their employers.

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The students were proud to send the letters which had been neatly typed on Bryan Center stationary. The project created lots of positive PR for our school.

****

Group Sessions Periodically, members of the community or agency staff are invited to give presentations and lead discussions for the entire student group. Some speakers have visited about juvenile rights, self-defense, alcohol-drug use, abuse and treatment; couple violence and date rape. Students are encouraged to attend and participate in these sessions. They can earn elective credit for the course, Community Issues, through their participation.

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Bryan Extension Center
1801 South 40 Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

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MORE IDEAS

VOCATIONAL and CAREER PROJECTS

Contractual Agreements Many students do not see the importance of school. Jobs, however, seem to be the key. Often a youth's attitude is, "If I can earn money, who cares about school." When all else fails, the job is used to shape behavior. Following is an example of a contract drawn up with the employer's approval to help encourage appropriate behavior at school. Believe me, when you hurt the pocket book, behavior changes.

Contractual Agreement

1. Three (3) hours of school work is required daily.
   a. One hour math class
   b. One hour English class
   c. One hour history class
2. Upon arrival at school, the history packet is given to John (the Vocational Coordinator) with the work completed.
3. If any of 1 and 2 are not done, the youth will be suspended from his job on the following day. As a result, the youth will be on room restriction for time missed in school and at the cottage on restriction for the remainder of the day and night.
4. If suspension from work occurs more than five times, the youth will be suspended from his job until such time as a commitment to do required prerequisites for job placement.

Youth	Voc. Coordinator
Cottage Staff	Counselor
Principal	Employer

Marketing An area designed to teach students money management skills in an area which is non-threatening. Each student is given an allowance of $2 to spend in Canteen (an area of pool tables, ping pong, air hockey, foos ball, etc.). During the 20 minutes, each student has an option to purchase one item of nutritional food from the open canteen. The item cost is subtracted from his balance sheet by the store manager. When the $2 is used, another $2 is taken from the youth's account with his/her permission to start the process all over again. Teachers may also enter by giving $2 to the store manager. The $2 is used initially by the Home Ec class to purchase food items or to purchase ingredients to make the items.

The canteen is also an area where much counseling takes place. The atmosphere of an undesigned, unstructured classroom is nonthreatening and over a game of pool, many youth open up to staff.

One class earns points toward free snacks in canteen. One hundred points equals one free snack. The maximum a student may earn is 20 points per class period.

****

Gardening Many of our students fail to see the importance of being on time for jobs. When they get a job and then are fired, they realize tardiness is not tolerated in the world of work. To try and avoid this pitfall and to shape certain behaviors, the garden program was implemented.

Garden Rules

1. Report to garage 6 at 6:00 a.m. If more than five minutes late, return to the cottage.....No work for the day!

Garden Rules (con't.)

2. Clock in at garage; then go straight to garden.
3. If a person is on in-school suspension or suspended from school, the youth loses his rotation in the garden.
4. Youth will be paid 50¢ in hand per hour worked in the garden; the rest goes into student's account.
5. One warning will be given before above cash advance is withheld. If second warning is given, no cash advance and no work for the rest of the day.
6. At 8:00 a.m. students clock out and return to cottage. Cash advances will be given at school.

Work schedule is on three rotations. If it rains there is no work that day unless called. Calls are made to cottage one day prior to work rotation.

****

Kid Power Many students have no idea what they may want to do for a career. Even with interviews, one hears, "I'll do anything for money!". To give youth a variety of work experiences, the YOUTH POWER project was started.

The employer pays what he feels the job is worth, taking into consideration the time and effort needed to complete the job. The vocational coordinator consults with the prospective employer to determine this. We try to stress quality work.....speed comes later.

See poster on following page.

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KID POWER

FOR MOST ODD JOBS

AVAILABLE AFTER

3:30 P.M. MON.-FRI.S

& WEEKENDS

YOU: PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION

NEGOTIATE PAYMENT

2 DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE

CALL 471-9305 EXT. 233

Employee of the Week The student's picture is taken and mounted on a wall outside the classroom door under the heading "Employee of the Week". This is significant of the student who has been most cooperative, followed directions, clocked in and out on time and attended to the tasks assigned the prior week. These are actually job-readiness skills taught in the classroom.

****

Interviews During one part of a job-readiness class, personnel administrators within the community are brought into the classroom to do interviews with the students.

If at all possible, student interviews are video taped and played back to each student to show him/her how he/she appeared to the interviewer. Students may be helped by peer grading and rating.

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Whitehall School
Nebraska Center for Children
and Youth
P.O. Box 4585
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

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